
# *What is the Meshnet Plan?*

## Our Vision:

The Meshnet Plan dreams of an alternative internet, free from censorship and once again open to innovation and free thinking and owned by the people rather than by any corporation or government. We see this done by connecting person to person directly through mesh networking.

## Our Plan:

While we would love to make our vision a reality, our real plan for now is to create mesh network “islands” throughout the world that have anywhere from just a couple nodes to hundreds of nodes - or connected buildings/homes - and expand these as we can. The mesh network “islands” will be connected to each other through the current Internet, allowing for an alternative network to form between all these meshes. We will focus on working with Universities and other like-minded groups to create these islands. We hope to have a number of these networks started within the next few weeks. These networks will be built so that they are able to avoid censorship and illicit monitoring from corporations and governments. We also will open these local networks up for new innovation in local businesses, allowing for businesses to buy ads that would get more of their local area while still maintaining the security of the network. Overall, our plan is to start this project small, and build from there, with the eventual goal of reaching our dream of a better Internet for all.

# Frequently Asked Questions (In Progress):

### What is a mesh network?

A mesh network is basically a network where each client(user) directly connects to other clients in the network instead of all of the clients being attached to a cable leading to an Internet Service Provider. This is a distributed architecture which relies on the network participants themselves to provide the connections and routes for packets to flow across the network.

### Why use mesh networks?

Mesh networking is a robust method of communications which provides excellent message handling in the event of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. Because the infrastructure is owned by the participants, it also offers good resistance to corporate and government censorship. The democratic uprisings in the Middle East have clearly demonstrated Government's eagerness to shut down communications networks when they are threatened. Because Mesh-networks are composed of private, citizen-owned communications infrastructure, they provide protection against corporate and government control.

### Why is a mesh network better?

Since a mesh network is run by users instead of by an ISP, it is difficult to censor and/or shut down. The network would also be built to prevent spying by governments and corporations.

### Why is a mesh network worse?

Mesh networks do not have the efficiency of planned point-to-point networks with known routing tables. Routing must be determined dynamically, and can result in redundant packets, network congestion, and slower transmission speeds. Mesh networks are particularly susceptible to "scaling" problems which may appear as an increasing number of nodes join the network.

### What are the first steps to building this network?

The first steps are to finish development of needed software, and to establish local mesh networks across the United States and the world.

**How can I help if I have no technological experience?**

Spreading the word is the absolute best thing you can do right now. Tell everyone in your local area and get a group together that is close enough that each person can see at least one other's home from wherever you are going to place the antenna. Once you have that, we will have a guide together soon about how to set up your network even if you're not extremely tech savvy. For now, see the question below.

**How can I establish a local meshnet?**

This part is not ridiculously difficult even in rural areas. Find some neighbors and friends that would be willing to try it and are visible from at least one other house in the network. Next, you need to buy appropriate hardware (more on this soon) and use either professional or home made antenna boosters to connect wifi between each of the houses. There are guides online like this one: **PDF** which will explain this subject in-depth.

**Where can I find a little more information?**

There is a document that has been made with more technical information for those interested you can see it in the link below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p2enlkLpj2L55ge_5THDYQJk1ZHPw5hf7LoiMKo2PNk/edit